

THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

June 21, 1977

STAT  
To: Mr. Robert Bowie  
Room 7E62, Headquarters  
CIA   
From: Harold H. Saunders  
Subject: Intelligence Community Priorities

As we have already indicated to you, we have no further comment on the list of priorities which will be discussed at the NFIB this afternoon.

However, on looking at the list and thinking about the perspective of the policy-makers, it seemed to me we might want to preface such a list with an introductory paragraph along the following lines:

Following are the main substantive issues the Intelligence Community is concentrating on. Each will be dealt with so as to (a) assure our fullest possible knowledge of the facts; (b) focus on the political and other factors which shape the objectives of the other nations involved as well as their abilities to achieve their intentions; (c) clarify implications for U.S. interests.

The point here is that many of the questions on the list if used as the takeoff point for detailed studies would produce a rather flat and unfocused paper not particularly attuned to the policy-maker's concerns about the limits and opportunities of the situation in which he has to maneuver. Rather than translate that general point into more detailed terms of reference at this stage in your exercise, I thought perhaps the point could be made as an introductory one on the approach that will be taken in each of the substantive areas.

This is just a last minute thought for your own use. If the occasion arises, I may make the point at the NFIB table.